



Town of Darien

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Darien Earns HEARTSafe Community Designation



The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with the American Heart Association, designated the Town of Darien a “**HEARTSafe Community**” in a ceremony held on Thursday, September 24, 2009 in the Town Hall Auditorium. The ceremony featured a gathering of those who made the award possible, both in collecting the information which led to the designation and those who had the planning foresight to ensure the Town had such emergency response capabilities available. The State presented the Town with a certificate and road signs that will be posted along roadways announcing the HEARTSafe Community designation. Darien joins 35 other Connecticut communities with this designation.

“The **HEARTSafe Communities** program is designed to promote and recognize the efforts of local municipalities to provide improved cardiac response and care to its residents,” said DPH Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H. “Darien has demonstrated its commitment toward ensuring that its residents and visitors receive the early lifesaving response proven to increase the chances of survival for heart attack victims.”

“Darien is proud to have achieved this designation,” said First Selectwoman Evonne Klein. “It demonstrates the coordinated commitment of our community volunteers working together with our local and state health departments.” David Knauf, Darien Director of Health expressed appreciation for all who worked so hard in securing this designation, especially Molly Larson, Public Health Nurse for the Health Department and Joan Gildea, RN from Post 53. “Once we started gathering information, it became clear that Darien had more than enough lifesaving equipment and trained individuals available. Now for the first time, we have an inventory of the location and types of equipment together with a plan for providing on-going training programs to be conducted by Darien EMS and the local Red Cross. We are also proud of the fact that the Darien Schools are already compliant with recent legislation signed by Governor Rell decreeing that each school have at least one accessible AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) by 2010.”

A HEARTSafe Community promotes and supports: CPR training in the community; public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members; and early advanced care.

Darien met the program requirements for public placement of AEDs, trained community residents, and equipped, staffed and trained emergency responders. In addition, Darien is planning on continuing to provide community CPR training programs and expand the availability of AEDs in public locations.